

REMARKS

Claims 74-133 are now pending. Claims 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 103, 104, 107, 108, 109, 124, 125, 126, 128 and 129 are independent. Originally filed claims 1-73 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 74-77 have been copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,107,213, (the '213 patent) copy attached at TAB A, which issued August 22, 2000. Claims 74 and 75 are copied versions of '213 patent claim 1 and claims 76 and 77 are copied versions of '213 claim 20.

Claims 78-107 have also been copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,107,213. In particular, Applicants have copied claims 1-11 and 13-20 from the '213 patent.

Claims 108-128 have likewise been copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,107,213. More specifically, in connection with claims 108-128, Applicants have copied claims 1-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 from the '213 patent.

Claims 129-133 have been copied from U.S. Patent No. 6,194,245, (the '245 patent) which issued February 27, 2001, copy attached at TAB B. In particular, these claims correspond to claims 7-11 from the '245 patent.

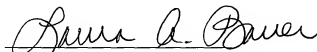
Applicants note that these same claims, or variants thereof, were also copied in application no. 09/734,667 in Group Art Unit 2815 and in application no. 09/933,711 filed on August 22, 2001 in Group Art Unit 1765, or in 09/161,775 filed September 29, 1998 in Group Art Unit 2813. Claims 129-133 were copied both in application no. 09/734,667 and 09/933,711 on February 27, 2002. The present

continuation-in-part application is the combination of all three of these pending applications.

Applicants wish to personally interview the Examiner in this case before any action on the merits. Accordingly, before taking up this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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